

From: Allen Davis Malony
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:15am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Renata B. Hesse,

The Department of Justice's tentative settlement with Microsoft of the United States vs. Microsoft antitrust lawsuit is a very poor solution to curtailing the well-documented anti-competitive nature of Microsoft's obvious monopolistic practices. This settlement IS NOT upholding either the antitrust laws for controlling monopolies that prevent other companies from fairly competing, or the spirit of those laws to have fair competition spur technological advancement. Indeed, Microsoft has demonstrated in its aggressive actions towards competitors, wielding its monopolistic weight and power, that it is ONLY concern with maintaining its dominant position for business profit. Its elimination of competitive products while assimilating, with reservation, their technological ideas (if not directly stealing their intellectual property) goes far to explain its lame argument of being an "innovator."

As the tentative settlement stands, it represents a complicity and an approval on the part of the Department of Justice to Microsoft's monopolistic behavior. The precedent that would be set by this settlement is disturbing from the point of view of the Justice Department's and the White House's role in U.S. business.

Clearly, there is a problem with Microsoft as a monopoly, and this problem continues even now. Please don't be part of the problem. I admonish you not to approve this tentative settlement. Furthermore, I urge you to "do the right thing" and to treat Microsoft as severely as you would any company with so clear and damning evidence against them.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Malony
Associate Professor
Dept. of Computer and Information Science
University of Oregon